Title and Preamble

The question that the Title and the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was put and carried. The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: I beg to move that the Travancore Merchandise Marks Bill be passed.

Mr. R. Rama Varier: I second the motion.

The question that the Bill be passed was put and carried. The Bill was passed.

THE TRAVANCORE POISONS BILL.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I rise to introduce the Travancore Poisons Bill and move that the Bill be read in Council. I may here draw the attention of the honourable members of this House to the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill. It will be found that a very large number of substances which are injurious to men have been brought under direct control. Take for instance, explosives, articles falling under the Excise Act, articles falling within the category of military stores and ever so many other articles. These, when considered with reference to the safety of mankind, must be said to be harmful to a degree, but if we look into the statute book we will not find a single enactment which empowers the Government to have any control over the sale or disposal of poisonous substances. We have very deadly poisonous substances in the State, as for instance, arsenic. That is a substance which is being regularly sold in the market by all persons or by any person who chooses to do so, without even obtaining a licence; and Government themselves are not in a position to ascertain which is the person who is in possession of arsenic, how much quantity he has got in store, how he sells, to whom he is selling—all these matters it is now impossible to ascertain. There was a similar lacuna in the statute law of British India. There it was remedied I think some 20 or 25 years ago. But the difficulty in making a statute law regulating the possession and sale of poisonous substances is very great. There are ever so many poisonous herbs which grow in abundance in Travancore and many other parts of India. It is reported that very potent poisons can be manufactured or can be extracted from such herbs and it will not be possible therefore to enumerate the kinds of poisonous substances which we propose to deal within the Bill itself. Therefore it is so framed as to empower the Government by rules to regulate the possession, sale, transport, import, etc., of all these poisonous substances. It is no doubt somewhat vaguely or widely worded, but it is inevitable under the present circumstances.

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Sir, I have more fully explained the motives contained in the various clauses in the second paragraph of the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill. I move, Sir, that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. R. Rama Varier: I second the motion.

The motion that the Bill be read in Council was put and carried.

Secretary: The Title of the Bill shall be "The Travancore Poisons Bill."

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I beg to move that the Travancore Poison's Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following honourable members :—

Messrs Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi
V. Chellam Pillai
A. Easwara Pillai
M. Govindan
P. N. Nilacanta Pillai
K. M. Kesavan
G. Narayana Aiyar
Kalloor Narayana Pillai
M. Sultan Muhiadheen
V. Sankara Menon
C. N. Thuppan Nambutiripad
James Fletcher
Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait

Mr. R. Rama Varier: I second the motion.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I would suggest Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar in the place of Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar who on account of ill health may not be able to attend the Select Committee meetings.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar may also be added.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I have no objection.

The question that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the names above-mentioned was put and carried.

The House adjourned at 12-32 P. M. to meet again at 11 A. M. on Saturday the 28th March 1942.

V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAY,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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